

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 FBO-02 L-02 /015 W

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R 210823Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7340

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3906

USIAC

STATE FOR NEA PASS O. T. BERKMAN

E. O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: USIS CALCUTTA BUILDING

REF; USIA 6087, DELHI 2639 AND 16837 DATED 12/18/74

1. USIA 6087 DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO MAJOR POINT OF OURTEL 2639. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO REQUEST A REVIEW HERE OF USIS CALCUTTA BUILDING PLANS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SPACE PLANNED WILL NOT EXCEED FORESEEABLE USIS REQUIREMENTS.

2. I ENDORSE THE EMBASSY'S POSITION AND REQUEST THE AGENCY'S SUPPORT FOR IT. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN ONLY MINIMAL CONSULTATION WITH THE END-USERS OF THIS BUILDING. SINCE LONG BEFORE MY ARRIVAL HERE NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, USIS HAS RAISED BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BUILDING AND MADE NUMEROUS SUGGESTIONS FOR IT WHICH HAVE EITHER GONE UNANSWERED OR WERE DISMISSED WPTHOUT CONSULTATION WITH US.

3. OUR MOST BASIC QUESTION CONTINUES TO PERTAIN TO THE SUITABILITY OF THE PRESENT CONTRACTOR. WE AGAIN RAISED THAT QUESTION (BASED ON FBO REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ' REVIEW OF PROBLEMS WITH THE SAME CONTRACTOR'S USIS DELHI BUILDING) IN OURTEL 16837 TO THE AGENCY. THAT MESSAGE OF DECEMBER 18, 1974, ENDORSED BY FRITZ

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AND BY THE EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR, HAS REMAINED

WITHOUT A REPLY.

4. BASED ON THE ENTIRELY INADEQUATE INFORMATION VOUCHSAFED USIS BY FBO AND THE AGENCY (WE HAVE NEVER BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ARCHITECTS) WE ARE NOT SURE THAT THE TOTAL SPACE PLANNED IS EXCESSIVE.

5. BUT THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT, AS PRESENTLY PLANNED, THE BUILDING WILL REPRESENT SOMETHING FAR FROM AN OPTIMUM SOLUTION TO USIS PROGRAM NEEDS. TO MENTION JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WE HAVE RAISED BEFORE: THE GROUND FLOOR APPEARS TO US TO BE POORLY UTILIZED, THE AUDITORIUM IS TOO SMALL AND ITS STAGE INADEQUATE; THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE LITTLE OR NOT PARKING SPACE FOR LIBRARY CLIENTS OR OTHER VISITORS; THE SPACE USED UP BY STAIRWELLS (TWO FULL AND ONE PARTIAL PLUS TWO ELEVATORS) APPEARS EXCESSIVE; THE FENESTRATION IS BOTH DULL AND UNSUITED TO ONE OF THE MAJOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS, THE LIBRARY. AND, FOR GOOD MEASURE, NO CONVINCING EXPLANATION HAS EVER BEEN OFFERED AS TO WHY EITHER PARKING OR UTILITIES OR BOTH CANNOT BE DISPOSED OF IN A BASEMENT -- WHEN BASEMENTS ARE NOW A FEATURE OF MANY NEW OFFICE STRUCTURES IN CALCUTTA.
HEMSING

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